

2-22-2008

# The Hilltop 2-22-2008

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**WEATHER**

 **37**  
**35**  
**Tomorrow:**  
 **43**  
**30**

Established  
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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 87

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Friday, February 22, 2008

## Friday Notebook

### BREAKING NEWS

A FERRY BOAT CARRYING FUEL TANKS CRASHED INTO A BARGE OFF THE COAST OF BRAZIL. TEN PEOPLE DIED AND NINE WERE PRONOUNCED MISSING, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

### LIFE & STYLE

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS...WITH BENEFITS? TAKE A LOOK INSIDE AT HOW SOME HOWARD STUDENTS VIEW THE NOTION OF FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS.

### EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS YET TO TAKE ACTION IN KENYA. WILL THEY ACT IN TIME TO PREVENT ANOTHER SITUATION LIKE RWANDA? SEE WHAT WE THINK.

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## HUSA Policy Board Looks to Improve Technology

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER  
 Staff Writer

Everything from the presidential search process to computer software updates was touched on at the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Policy Board meeting held Thursday.

"By the end of the semester, we'll have a new e-mail system to replace software that is so outdated now," said Marcus Ware, HUSA president.

Ware explained that the current software has not been updated since 1998, saying, "Our e-mail isn't even in service anymore, technical support cannot be done since the product is no longer made."

He described the incoming software as "top of the line," and said that representatives from ISAS will go out to train students on how to use the e-mail system.

Policy Board members were informed about the \$10 million endowment fund, of which the principal will be spent on general students.

Ware explained that \$1.2 million of the fund has been earmarked to enhance the quality of student life and another \$1.2 million will be used for a student emergency fund.

A current project to enhance student life now is updating the bowling alley and game room in Blackburn. The money will be used on two projects, one for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Sophia Nur, president of graduate student council, said there is an overwhelming need to repair and upgrade computers in the iLab.

Ware said often student leaders are not vocal about their concerns.

"If you talk to the administration a lot of times they will go do it," he said. "We were asking them to do things, and they were happy to do it. Student leaders need to take accountability for making



A new e-mail system and upgrades in the iLab are among top concerns for members of the HUSA Policy Board.

sure things work."

Policy Board members were given the opportunity to express grievances or concerns at their respective schools and colleges.

Nick Owen, president of the School of Communications, explained that there was a walk-through was recently done in the building to identify concerns. Problems were identified on the graduate level as well.

Joshua Senavoe, chairman of the Policy Board, explained that the School of Law is having is-

suces with staffing and positions often go unfilled.

"It sometimes takes a month to two months to for the notice to get out," Senavoe said. "How long will it take for somebody to respond and fill the position?"

Ware said that often the interview process takes so long that the candidate already has a job once the position is offered. He suggested student leaders to take the time to discuss issues with the secretary of the Board of Trustees, Artis Hampshire-Cowan.

He moved to request human resource cor-

respondence with Hampshire-Cowan. This will address vacant and interim positions in all schools and colleges.

"We can meet with her and find out what the issue is," he said. "We have to get to the root of the problem first."

The student leaders also discussed how, if amended, the Policy Board will consist of 12 appointed representative from each school and college next year. The change is created to ensure that there is no conflict of interest, as now current presidents of schools and colleges are positioned on the board.

"The only thing that's changing is that a representative from each school will be selected," Ware said. "It won't be the president sitting on the policy board. We're trying to bring more accountability to the Policy Board."

He said, "What we are here for is to interpret the constitution and send out our reports. We're a judicial body but we're in here doing advocacy."

Many Policy Board members expressed sentiments that student advocacy must first begin in General Assembly. Some board members added that many representatives of General Assembly don't focus enough on legislation but rather on programs.

The board members moved to have the General Assembly Chair come to the next Policy Board meeting to discuss how the assembly is to be conducted.

Ware briefly updated Policy Board members about the presidential search process by explained that the search will soon be narrowed down to three people.

Most information cannot be disclosed yet by the Presidential Search Committee, but Ware explained that many students do want to be involved in the process. He explained that due to a certain level of confidentiality, candidates are not required to meet with students but will be encouraged to do so.

## Language Skills May Be Beneficial Outside Classrooms, on Resumes

BY MIRANDA BRAXTON  
 Contributing Writer

The melting pot is a term used to describe the United States. However, it is in need of a new ingredient. It needs to involve communication between everyone in the country and will force its advancement upon us whether we move with it or not.

As America becomes more and more populated with various ethnicities and cultures, the need for bilingual and trilingual employees is becoming a need and in some places a requirement.

Not only does exposure to a variety of cultures provide cross-cultural education it promotes culturally sensitive. Professor Clemmons Akassi from the Spanish Language department says that jobs vary depending on who offers a higher salary for having such a skill but says that translation is always a good option.

Most entry-level interpreters and translators make an average yearly salary of \$40,000. However, more advanced professionals make at least \$100,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2006.

Akassi also states "[being bilingual] you will always have a job." The more popular languages he said are Spanish and French. However, if you want to extend your knowledge he also says Chinese is a growing language to indulge in. Personal benefits include being able to connect with other countries by speaking their language with them.

Communication is the only effective way of getting anything done and being able to communicate with more people will spread knowledge across the country.

Many Howard students struggle getting through the required semesters of a second language, but these forced classes will soon prove to be a great financial boost when students be-



Speaking multiple languages can boost a candidate's desirability during a job search.

come active in their careers.

Junior Spanish major Felicia Carter said she chose her major because she knew it would double her clientele as a future lawyer. "Being from Miami there are many Spanish people, many of whom do not know any English." She later adds that "without knowing Spanish [in Miami] your business will not be as successful."

With many different careers to choose from, there's really no reason not to learn a second language while in school. Many choices include international business; translation, teaching as well as government work with international affairs.

Derrick Strickland, Jr., sophomore Spanish and economics double major, is so far unsure of his career goal specifically but has a strong background of Spanish saying "[he] studied Spanish in high school so [he] was pretty good at it already before [he] got here."

Freshman Charles Canady, Jr.,

a Spanish major as well, decided to take up such a major because it was something he learned in previous years and is an area he has excelled in as well.

Even for those who did not have a history of learning a second language in high school, Howard gives its students the opportunity to learn Spanish and other languages including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Swahili.

"I chose it [Spanish] so that I could learn the language fluently. It never occurred to me what careers I would explore until I came to Howard, and people began to tell me all the things that I could do," Canady said.

With the right focus and determination in these classes, money and career options may increase with the ability to speak multiple languages. So even though those language books may break the bank now, the knowledge may help stack your pockets later.



The Lady Bison softball team won the 2007 MEAC Softball Championship last May.

## Coaches, Directors Predict Lady Bison for No. 1 in North

BY PATRICIA PORTER  
 Special to the Hilltop

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—The defending Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) tournament champion Howard University was predicted to win the 2008 MEAC Softball Championship, as voted on by the league's head softball coaches and sports information directors.

Florida A&M was slated to finish first in the Southern division while the Bison were picked to win the Northern division and the tournament title.

The Lady Bison finished the 2007 season with a 35-21 overall record and earned their first berth to the NCAA post season tournament. They return six starters, three of which earned All-MEAC honors including senior pitcher Dale McNeal, infielder/catcher Kristina Cordova and tournament MVP Courtney Young. Young was one of three players to earn all conference honors as a freshman after leading the MEAC in doubles and RBIs per game during a stellar rookie campaign.

Howard received 11 first place votes for a total of 101 points to earn the preseason honor.

Florida A&M earned the nod in the Southern division after posting a 7-7 MEAC finish in 2007 and a 16-46 overall

record.

The Lady Rattlers received eight first place votes for a total of 78 points and will look to return to their elite status after winning the tournament title in 2006.

The Delaware State Lady Hornets were selected to finish second in the Northern division with 95 total points. The Lady Hornets finished the 2007 campaign with a 10-4 MEAC record and 24-29 overall mark.

Hampton was predicted to finish third in the North, receiving 83 total points. The Lady Pirates dominated conference play last year with an unblemished 14-0 MEAC record but suffered a tough blow closing out the regular season after the death of head coach Tiny Laster.

The N.C. A&T Lady Aggies were picked to finish second in the Southern division. The Lady Aggies recovered after an early loss to Howard in the opening round of the championship tournament to compete against the Lady Bison for the title. The Lady Aggies, who received 71 total points, finished the 2007 season with a 9-5 MEAC record and 30-30 overall mark.

Conference play begins March 29 with all MEAC northern and southern teams pitted against one another.





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# Friends With Benefits Might Not Be Quite Beneficial

BY SHANDRILYA LEWIS  
Contributing Writer

Is there really a "benefit" when it comes to friends with benefits?

It may be a widely known fact that serious relationships on Howard University's campus are slim to none. However, there is a certain type of relationship that many Howard students are involved in, whether they know it or not.

Friends with benefits are something not often discussed but often practiced. On college campuses, some students do not want to fully commit themselves to a relationship. Although some may feel it's convenient, it could be seen as a hassle for others.

"When I think of the words 'friends with benefits,' I think of something that is good but trouble as well," said Alexandra Hines, a radio broadcasting major. "They all start out good, but feelings come into the picture so it starts to be a troublesome situation."

Feelings seem to play an important role in the longevity of these types of relationships.

"Females tend to read too much into these types of relationships," said Garrett LaGrange, a sophomore finance major. "They do not know how to just be casual."

Christopher Munn, a sophomore finance major definitely agrees. "Females always think that the relationship will progress into a more serious relationship,"

he said. "When it doesn't, they get mad."

Quadiera Robinson, a junior psychology major understands why guys may feel this way.

"If you can stoop low enough to think of your relationship with a person as being just beneficial friends, then you should not expect anything more," she said.

Junior marketing major Charlene Mack views friends with benefits negatively as well.

"People are just trying to

*"If you can stoop low enough to think of your relationship with a person as being just beneficial friends, then you should not expect anything more."*

- Quadiera Robinson

fill some type of a void," she said. "When I think of friends with benefits, my immediate thought is a loss of integrity. Most females just settle with being the 'beneficial' friend, but they really want a relationship."

Settling is definitely something junior film production major, Benjamin Snyder sees everyday. "I honestly find it interesting

that some females do not even realize that they are in this type of relationship."

Considering that it takes two people to be in this type of relationship, Hines does not believe that it is only females who are naive to the circumstances.

"People in general want attention," she said. "There are plenty females who have friends with benefits without catching any type of feelings. The only thing different is that society views them as being promiscuous."

Society has always had double standards when it comes to women and men. "As women, we are supposed to have this extremely positive image," Mack said. "That causes men as well as women to view other women with multiple partners so negatively."

Hines doesn't believe that it is as much of a double standard as people think.

"Roles have changed," she said. "Women have gotten hurt so much that they have become immune to all of the dumb things that go on when it comes to men. In turn, women have become less emotionally attached. In my opinion, guys are the ones who have become more emotionally attached."

When it comes to the overall situation, Snyder believes that there can actually be some benefits. "If both people are on the same page, it can be beneficial," he said. "The only problem is getting two people who will remain on the same page."

Considering that college

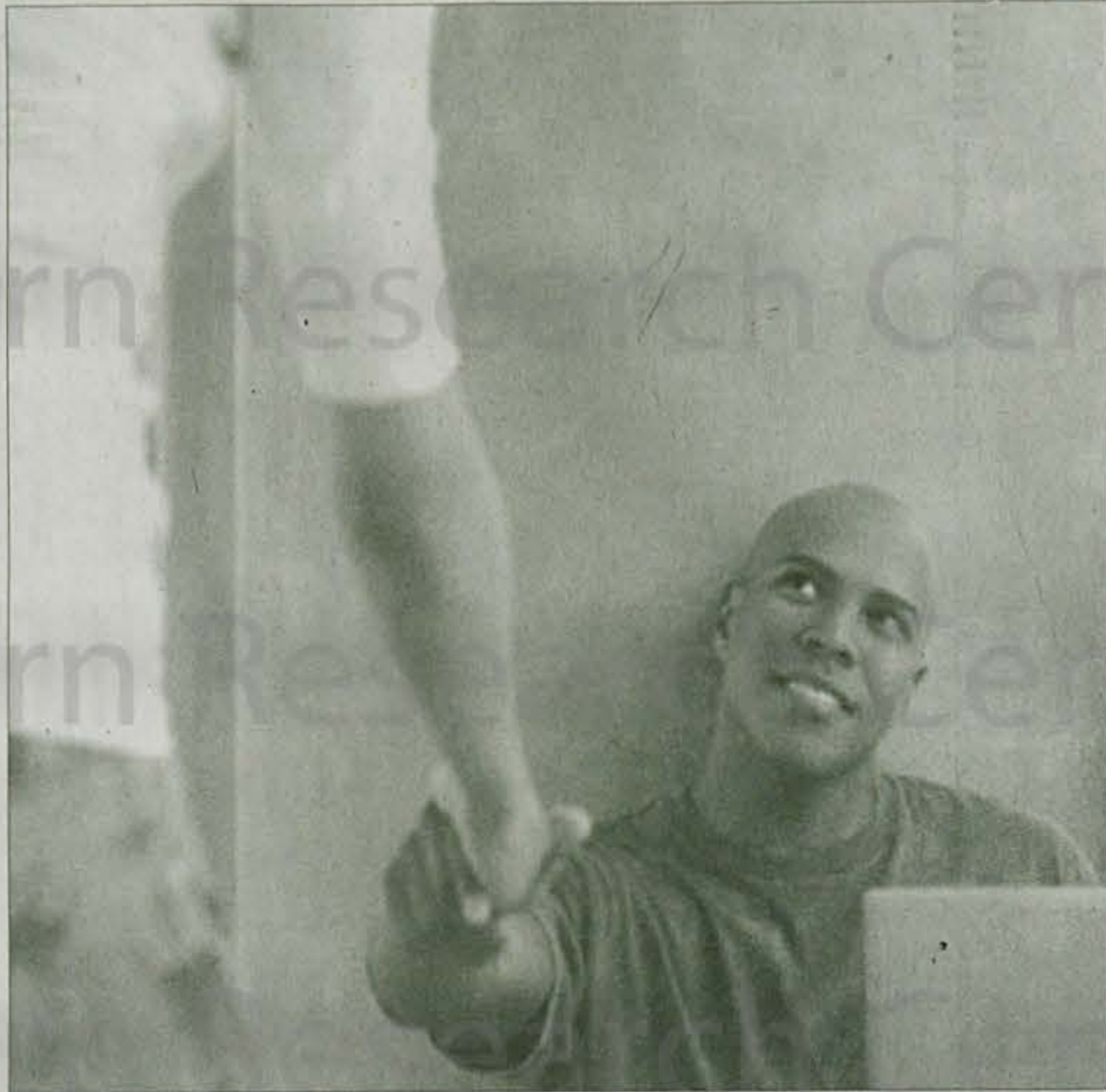


Photo Courtesy of www.isreal.com

Some students feel superficial relationships, also known as "friends with benefits," may only create more problems.

is about becoming an adult and growing as an individual, some find it surprising that it's so hard for people to just settle down.

"People are still young. People are looking for what's now...instant gratification," Robinson said.

Snyder agrees. "Most peo-

ple in and out of college are just not mentally ready for a real relationship so until that maturity level kicks in, the friends with benefits issue will continue to be."

## Weekly Entertainment Guide

### Detroit Girl Steps in For Her Mother

According to BET News, 7-year-old Alexis Goggins from Detroit proved to be a hero when she took six bullets to save her mother Seliethia Parker. Parker and Goggins were riding in a friend's SUV when 29-year-old Calvin Tillie seized the vehicle by gunpoint. Parker's friend decided to pull over and called 911. Parker was left with the gunman who tried to kill her. Goggins jumped from the backseat into the arms of her mother, taking several bullets that left her blind in her right eye and with several scars. The young superwoman is currently undergoing physical therapy.

### Tank Arrested in New Orleans

R&B star Tank was arrested in New Orleans for defending a female companion who allegedly got into an aggressive argument with the cops. After questioning the approach of the police, Tank was attacked. After his attack, he was treated in a New Orleans hospital before going to jail. According to AOL Black Voices, he was charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Tank claims the cops used excessive force before his arrest. "The most frustrating part of the entire incident is knowing that I did not do anything to pose a threat but was treated like a criminal," he said.

### Beyonce Set to Play Etta James in Movie

Although the movie is about Leonard Chess, the legendary founder of the southside Chicago blues label Chess Records, Beyonce, 26, is rumored to have been cast as Etta James. According to AOL Black Voices, "While speaking to Cedric the Entertainer on his latest film, 'Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins,' he mentioned to blackfilm.com that Beyonce has been cast to play famed singer Etta James on his next film, 'Cadillac Records.'" James got her start as a ballad singer at the Chicago record company and was closely supported by Leonard Chess.

# The Little Spring Break Bag

For Spring Break this year, students are debating what to put in their suitcases

BY ASHA POLLARD  
Contributing Writer

Sunny, blue skies shine brilliantly against the clear waters outlining the many tropical locations students from across the country travel to each year for the highly anticipated Spring Break vacation.

For weeks, and sometimes months, college students diligently make the necessary preparations for their one-week getaway. Booking flights and hotels, exercising daily to get those perfect abs and thighs and saving up that little bit of extra cash for that extra bit of fun they will be having while away.

But it is remarkably common for students to do all of this preparation and forget the most important items necessary to survive spring break.

"I make sure to bring specific items with me when I travel," said Jasmine Hollis, a sophomore radio production major.

"Aside from the obvious things you need, like clothes and toiletries, I make sure to pack sunscreen, sunglasses and my camera whenever I go on Spring

Break."

Hollis continued, "The sunscreen and sunglasses are really important because being out in the sun all day can be damaging to anyone's skin."

Northeast dermatologist Dr. Arnold Ratner feels that students too often forget the importance of sunblock when traveling to tropical destinations.

"I cannot say enough how important it is for students, of all races, to wear sunblock. Specifically, SPF levels between 15 and 30 are most effective. Neglecting to wear sunscreen can lead to severe sunburn and skin cancer. Also, students should wear sunglasses during the day to protect their eyes from harsh sun exposure."

Sophomore broadcast major Bianca Richardson feels that while protection from the sun is important during spring break, there are other necessities to take into account. One person's expendables may be another person's necessities.

"It is a must for me to bring a variety of sundresses, they are easy to pack and so comfortable to wear on the beach or any warm place you

go during Spring Break. I love my wide-brimmed hats too, they look good while providing shade from the sun."

Latonya Izzard, a sophomore political science major, plans on going to Florida and enjoying the beach for Spring Break.

"When I pack, I make sure to put my sandals and swimsuits in the mix, because that's all I will be wearing most of the time," she said. "But of course, I pack sunscreen and a few hats too, for protection from the sun."

And although sunscreen and hats are important to some, Izzard said those aren't the only items she needs during vacation.

"Another necessity would have to be my nail polish, because I love to switch things up when its hot and sunny outside...And of course, I pack my fragrances, but only light ones, because strong perfume doesn't mix with hot temperatures."

While sunscreen and swimsuits are important, not everyone goes to the beach for Spring Break.

Freshman finance major Joshua Hitton said, "Everyone goes to Miami or some beach for

the break, but I plan on going to Universal Studios."

"So, I won't need any swim trunks or anything," he said. "My suitcase will be packed with shorts, polos and sneakers of many varieties. But, the most important to remember is a secure wallet to carry my money, credit cards and tickets in."

"I have heard too many horror stories about people at amusement parks being robbed unknowingly or losing their money because they did not have it on them securely," Hitton said.

Local Target manager Henry McMillian has learned over the years that students can find all of their spring break necessities at Target.

"The important things are these: sunglasses, sunscreen, swimsuits and flip-flops. All of those things and more can be purchased right here," McMillian said. "Around this time of year, when Spring Break is approaching, I see a lot of Howard students buying things for their trips. They come in and buy suitcases, toiletries and all kinds of things."



Photos Courtesy of www.cdc.org, www.familytravelgear.com

Sunscreen, sunglasses, a swim suit and flip flops are important items to stock up on while preparing for Spring Break which starts March 15.

Don't Forget...

Mondays  
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Budget Meeting  
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more reminder  
before the weekend.



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Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Spread U.N. Support Across Africa

The United Nations has had an ongoing presence in Rwanda since 1994. It has worked within Darfur and Somalia to enforce some sense of stability as well. They even made a public apology for the death and destruction of the country and their late intervention.

While the United Nations is still active in repairing the destruction in Rwanda, another disaster is occurring right under their noses, and the international coverage of a country as well-known as Kenya, it may lead many Kenyans to say: Hey, remember us over here—the ones on the verge of genocide?

The problem with the United Nations is that their reaction is delayed.

Why wait until the situation in Kenya has erupted into a full out genocide?

Unfortunately, the United

Nations often declares its intentions but has had a history of not following through with those declarations. Although they apologized for and acknowledged the problems that face

of which have been victims of abuse, and the United Nations was recognized by UNICEM—a community initiative—for their continued support.

Nevertheless, some feel as if their hands are tied. It is not their responsibility to take care of Kenya or any other African country for that matter, especially with limited funds.

It could be more beneficial in providing aid, if they received more economic support from African countries.

Unfortunately, the reason African countries need the support is because they do not have the money.

Not to discredit any necessary work that is being done in Rwanda or any other countries in Africa, but there is a war stirring in Kenya, and if the United Nations is planning to help now would be as good a time as any.

**Our View:**  
*The United Nations should support Rwanda, but let's not forget about Kenya.*

these African problems, they have yet to take any real effective measures. There is a U.N. treatise on genocide, and they have recently released officials to Kenya, but it will be interesting to see what the United Nations does beyond that.

Recently, U.N. secretary, General Ban Ki-moon has promised to be an ambassador for Rwandan women—many

Perspective

School of Nursing Enforces Graduate Requirements

In your last semester at a university, the last thing you need is a new dean walking into the room and announcing that you will not be able to graduate unless you pass a series of new computerized mastery exams for classes you have previously taken.

On top of that, you get the materials the day before the first exam and the day after another major exam. You receive no tutor, no review sessions that directly correlate with the exam, and after failing it twice you are told that you will have to pay to retake the exams.

On top of this, you have to have the first series of mastery exams done by March 31 in order to take another comprehensive exam that you must pass with a certain benchmark. Compounded with three days of classes, two days of clinicals, two major projects, multiple papers, videos and other requirements that seem to get longer by the day you began to feel overwhelmed.

Any person would take a step back, assess the situation and weigh out their options. You can study and take the exams and pray you do not fail one or that they give you ample time to retake them, you pass and graduate.

On that same hand you bank on the fact that they are trying to scare you and convince yourself

that they would not fail 60 out of 68 students. Still, you see the impossibility of the situation and take every possible action to get administration to understand that this implemented requirement is not fair or realistic.

Unfortunately, you know that there are many times when you are seeking clarity on a particular situation and substantial amounts of time go by when the answer is finally received.

This is the dilemma of the senior nursing students here at Howard University. Although this is only the surface of our issues, this situation is coupled with the fact that there are people trying to penalize the senior nursing students for deficits within the nursing program that have been ignored for years by everyone at the university.

These deficits have been here from the day we walk into the program, such as the faulty equipment that we learn basic skills on and the courses and exams that do not prepare us for our boards.

These computerized exams can be compared to a statewide standardized exam given to elementary school students in certain states.

From the day the students walk in they are being prepared to pass this exam. Teachers recognize their weaknesses and rein-

force them up until the day of the exam.

This is like walking into the third grade class laying a book and a practice exam on their desk and telling them they have until next week to pass or they will not progress to the fourth grade. It would not be fair to those students and it is not fair to us.

The nation cries out about the nursing shortage and the lack of minorities in the field. If this plan goes through Howard University School of Nursing would be contributing to the nursing shortage times 68.

Every hospital in the nation waits for every May to relieve their department of mandated overtime and stress from having so many patients. We have worked hard for years making sacrifices and fighting against odds no one knows. Every person can testify and express their personal story and no eye in the room would be dry.

We have been through hell and back but have continued to reach for the ultimate goal, graduation. We are not asking for a handout but a rightfully earned degree to release us to begin to make changes in the area of health care. We are only asking to be given a realistic opportunity to succeed in this program, as well as life itself.

- Irnise Fennell

Daily Sudoku

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Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each digit 1-9 exactly once.

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				4			5	
9				7	4	6		
8	9							7
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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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